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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/670,049	09/25/2000	Freda D. Miller	CIBT-P03-120	4083

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EXAMINER

MURPHY, JOSEPH F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1646

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

18

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/670,049

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph F Murphy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34, 36-44, 47 and 48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-17, 21-34 and 36-42 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20, 36-44, 47-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Formal Matters

Claims 35, 45 and 46 were cancelled, and claims 18-19 were amended, and new claims 47-48 were added in Paper No. 17, 2/10/2003. Claims 1-34, 36-44, 47-48 are pending. Claims 1-17, 21-34, 36-42 stand withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b). Claims 18-20, 36-44, 47-48 are under consideration.

Response to Arguments and Amendment

Applicant's amendment, and arguments, filed 1/22/2003 have been fully considered but they are persuasive in part.

The rejection of claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, has been obviated by Applicant's amendment, and is thus withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 18-20 under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Sosnowski et al. has been obviated by Applicant's amendment, and is thus withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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The rejection of claims 18-20 has been applied to newly presented claims 47-48, which are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Sosnowski et al. (1995), for reasons of record as set forth in Paper No. 10, 5/6/2002, and Paper No. 14, 12/2/2002.

The rejection set forth that Sosnowski et al. (page 38, column 1, second paragraph to column 2, first paragraph) teaches a method of establishment in primary culture of olfactory epithelium isolated from adult mouse. Based upon immunoreactivity (page 45, column 1, fourth paragraph) to antibodies specific for intermediate filament proteins, the cells present in cultures were identified as neurons, glia or epithelial cells. Thus, the disclosure of Sosnowski meets the limitations of claims 18-20 and 35 of a method of producing a population of at least ten cells through the isolation of progenitor cells from peripheral tissue, in this instance olfactory epithelium, of a postnatal mammal. The cells isolated by Sosnowski et al. have been shown to be multipotent, due to the presence in culture of several cell types, thus meeting the limitation of claims 18-20 and 35.

Applicant argues that the teaching of Sosnowski et al. does not meet all of the limitations of the claims by not producing cells which are self-renewing and which differentiate in to ectodermal and mesodermal cell types. However, Sosnowski et al. teaches that the cultures established from regenerating olfactory tissue after chemical insult exhibited a range of neuronal yields (page 47, column 1, third paragraph). Cellular components of the cultures produced by Sosnowski et al. tested positive for keratin, as well as 200 kD and 160 kD neurofilament proteins, indicating the establishment of mixed olfactory epithelial cultures containing olfactory neurons (page 46, column 1, first paragraph), thus the cells taught by Sosnowski et al. differentiate into ectodermal cell types.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 18-20, 43-44 stand rejected, and newly presented claims 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sosnowski et al. (1995), in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,824,489 (Anderson et al.), for reasons of record set forth in Paper No. 14, 12/2/2002.

Sosnowski et al.(page 38, column 1, second paragraph to column 2, first paragraph) teaches a method of establishment in primary culture of olfactory epithelium isolated from adult mouse. Based upon immunoreactivity (page 45, column 1, fourth paragraph) to antibodies specific for intermediate filament proteins, the cells present in cultures were identified as neurons, glia or epithelial cells. Thus, Sosnowski teaches a method of producing a population of at least ten cells through the isolation of progenitor cells from peripheral tissue, in this instance olfactory epithelium, of a postnatal mammal. The cells isolated by Sosnowski et al. have been

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shown to be multipotent, due to the presence in culture of several cell types. Sosnowski et al. teaches that the cultures established from regenerating olfactory tissue after chemical insult exhibited a range of neuronal yields (page 47, column 1, third paragraph). Cellular components of the cultures produced by Sosnowski et al. tested positive for keratin, as well as 200 kD and 160 kD neurofilament proteins, indicating the establishment of mixed olfactory epithelial cultures containing olfactory neurons (page 46, column 1, first paragraph).

Sosnowski et al. does not teach a method of producing a population of multipotent stem cells from epithelial tissue which is not olfactory, or which is skin or tongue. The '489 patent discloses multipotent neural stem cells can be derived from neural epithelial tissue from the brain and/or spinal cord of the adult central nervous system or neural epithelial tissue which may be present in tissues comprising the peripheral nervous system. In addition, the '489 patent discloses that such multipotent neural stem cells may be derived from other tissues such as lung, bone and the like (column 5, lines 40-47). Skin and tongue are tissues that comprise neurons of the peripheral nervous system. The '489 patent further discloses that the multipotent neural stem cells can be isolated from tissues from humans (col 4, lines 51-58).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to practice a method of producing a population of multipotent stem cells from epithelial tissue which is not olfactory, or which is skin or tongue, including from a human. The motivation is provided in the '489 patent which discloses that the ability to isolate and grow mammalian neural crest stem cells in vitro allows for the possibility of using said stem cells to treat peripheral neurological disorders in mammals, particularly humans.

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Applicant argues that the teachings of the '489 patent does not overcome the deficiency of the Sosnowski reference, and that there is no expectation of success. However, as set forth above the Sosnowski reference teaches a method of producing a population of at least ten cells through the isolation of multipotent progenitor cells from peripheral tissue of a postnatal mammal. The '489 patent teaches the isolation of multipotent neural stem cells from peripheral tissues of mammals, including humans. The expectation of success is provided in the '489 patent which demonstrates the isolation of multipotent neural stem cells (col 13, line 55 to col 14 line 30) and also sets forth culture conditions for producing self renewing multipotent stem cells (col 18, line 50 to col 19, line 31).

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Advisory Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Murphy whose telephone number is 703-305-7245.

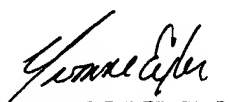
The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached on 703-308-6564. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-308-0294 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Joseph F. Murphy, Ph. D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1646
April 14, 2003



YVONNE EYLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT
TECHNOLOGICAL